

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093338
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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093338

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 2186 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRUSSELS CAIRO KINSHASA PARIS USUN DTD 21 APR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY XR

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN AND ZAIRIAN CLAIMS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL
INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA INVASION

REF: (A) STATE 089722, (B) RABAT 2183

1. IN ADDITION TO THE CHARGES OF CUBAN/ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT
INSIDE SHABA WHICH KING HASSAN MADE IN HIS APRIL 18 PRESS
CONFERENCE (REFTEL B), HE ALSO CITED AS "EVIDENCE" A
TELEGRAM FROM HIS FIELD COMMANDER IN ZAIRE WHICH CLAIMED
THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL CASES OF ANGOLAN CURRENCY.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN CORRESPONDENT REPORTING FROM
ZAIRE REPORTED IN APRIL 21 EDITION THAT TWO PRISONERS
HAD ENTERED ZAIRE FROM ANGOLA AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH,
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IN UNITS STAFFED BY CUBAN INSTRUCTORS. WHEN THEIR UNITS
HAD RECEIVED THE ORDER TO ADVANCE, THE CUBANS HAD RETURNED
TO "REAR BASES LOCATED NEAR THE ANGOLAN FRONTIER". IN
ADDITION, THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THE CAPTURE OF SOVIET-ORIGIN
SMALL ARMS AND MINES, MLPA INSIGNIA, AND "CUBAN" ANTI-TANK
MINES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KING HASSAN IN HIS APRIL 18 REMARKS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED CUBAN PRESENCE INSIDE ZAIRE, SUBSEQUENT LOCAL PRESS PLAY MAY BE BACKING AWAY SOMEWHAT FROM SUCH A CHARGE. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS STILL NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF CUBAN PRESENCE WITH KATANGAN FORCES INSIDE ZAIRE AND TEND TO CHALK THIS FLURRY UP TO BATTLEFIELD PROPAGANDA. MEANWHILE, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE THE GOM MAY HAVE OF CUBAN/ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT INSIDE ZAIRE.

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Message Attributes

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